



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3027

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Florida hosted 38 Army airbases in WWII and Tallahassee State College is built on the former Dale Mabry Army Air Field. Uniquely situated & academically partnered, the Liberty Plaza will be a cultural/educational enhancement for tourists & students of Florida history & civics. Scaled walkways shaped like the airbase runways will crisscross the 5-acre site. An Allied flags display and tribute to Florida's airbase support will be at the juncture. A nearby 1,500 sq/ft WWII structure will be remodeled into a welcome center.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	163,350
Fixed Capital Outlay	803,650
Total State Funds Requested	967,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	967,000	68%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	465,000	32%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,432,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	A full-time project director will be hired to administer the appropriation including solicit vendor contracts, overseeing all phases of design and construction, and providing deliverable reports to the state agency. Includes salary and benefits.	115,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Five percent for indirect costs such as faxing, shipping, office supplies, travel, etc. is requested	48,350
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Architectural and engineering services, site preparation, permitting and construction costs.	803,650
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		967,000

13. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?



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Construction of an amenity for public consumption. Tallahassee’s Dale Mabry Army Air Field Educational and Museum Complex seeks to honor Florida’s historical and epic commitment to the Army Air Corps in WWII that resulted in the establishment of 38 airbases across the state, including this one in the Capital City at the site of modern-day Tallahassee State College. The Liberty Plaza will be a "must see" cultural landmark for tourists to the Capital City. The young will be inspired by stories of the sacrifices of America’s "Greatest Generation. The Liberty Plaza will be attractive to freedom-loving people, and has international appeal because our allies trained here also. It will serve as a point of pride and memorial to the State’s contributions to the "mightiest air force the world had ever seen".

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Design and construction of the infrastructure and thematic enhancements as described in the project description, along with continued marketing and public relations of the amenity in conjunction with our community partners and stakeholders, including Tallahassee State College.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

The Liberty Plaza at Tallahassee's Dale Mabry Army Air Field Museum is a cultural enhancement to improve the quality of life of locals & tourists alike through education, entertainment and inspiration. The welcome center will orientate visitors while offering necessary amenities including bathrooms, water fountains and benches. Docents will enhance the experience through direct engagement.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

The Liberty Plaza will become a focal point for tourists and students of all ages to learn about local and state history against the backdrop of world history and global conflict. It will help to make history come alive by serving as a tangible example of mobilization and conversion of industry and facilities (e.g. existing airports and land) to defeat foreign threats to national sovereignty. Tallahassee State College has approximately 15,000 students alone and will open a K-12 charter school in 2023. Approximately 55,000 students attend Florida State University, Florida A&M University and Lively Technical College. Leon County K-12 enrollment is nearly 33,000 at 57 schools.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

Placemaking, education and economic development - Celebrating the connectedness and heritage of a state or locality and what makes it unique, has shown to improve community pride and overall life satisfaction and well-being. Dale Mabry Army Air Field is a chapter in Tallahassee's storied past that has yet to be written and celebrated. Visit Tallahassee 2020 economic study showed 7% of tourists (approx. 118,000) to the Capital City visited historical amenities. Visit Florida affirms the value of military history, offering <https://www.visitflorida.com/things-to-do/military/> A major growth strategy of local government is "placemaking" through cultural amenities, e.g. museums. See <https://www.talgov.com/place/pln-placemaking>. We will work with Visit Tallahassee to be included in their collection and reporting of community economic health. We will track student volunteerism, conduct public opinion surveys, and collect engagement metrics.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

We anticipate a fixed fee, deliverables-based, cost-reimbursement contract through the chosen agency whereby any funds not expended for the intended purpose will be returned.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):



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15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)



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- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.